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# Vote nears on Sporkin judgeship

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The Senate Judiciary Committee is expected to take up the nomination of CIA General Counsel Stanley Sporkin to a federal judgeship after more than a year of controversial Senate review.

Mark W. Goodin, a committee spokesman, said the closed-door session today will deal with sensitive national security information and that a vote on the nomination was not expected until next week at the earliest.

"Sen. [Strom] Thurmond thinks there are serious allegations here, and he wants to make sure all the facts are made known to the committee," Mr. Goodin said in an interview. "The senator is undecided [on the nomination], but as chairman he wants the allegations looked into and [to] let the facts speak for themselves."

Mr. Sporkin was former enforcement chief at the Securities and Exchange

Commission until CIA Director William Casey appointed him general counsel in 1981. His nomination to the judgeship has been held up by Judiciary Committee members who are questioning Mr. Sporkin's role in a Justice Department investigation of a senior CIA official suspected of leaking classified information.

Mr. Sporkin has denied any wrongdoing.

One administration official said Mr. Sporkin's nomination has taken "an inordinately long time."

"Since the president has demonstrated his continuing support for this nomination, it certainly deserves the opportunity to be voted on," said the official, who requested anonymity.

Allegations that Mr. Sporkin might have acted improperly during a CIA inquiry first surfaced after the nomination was sent to the Judiciary Committee, the official said. But he added that the Justice Department and the CIA have "thoroughly investigated" Mr. Sporkin's in-

volvement in a probe of CIA disclosures and "feel this nomination should go forward."

Mr. Sporkin, Mr. Casey, several Justice Department officials and others are expected to testify at the hearing originally scheduled for last Thursday. That hearing was postponed pending delivery to the committee of Justice Department documents related to the issue.

Initially, the postponement was attributed to Sen. Jeremiah Denton, who dashed off to the dentist last Thursday for emergency treatment of an abscessed tooth, sparking rumors that the Alabama Republican had been hospitalized. Mr. Denton is said to oppose Mr. Sporkin's nomination, although a spokesman for Mr. Denton would not comment on the senator's position.

Mr. Sporkin achieved notoriety as a liberal SEC official who threatened to publicize SEC investigations of corporate managers in order to force them to comply with the agency's regulations.